

# **Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering Committee**

**C/O Gerald Mueller  
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Missoula, MT 59801  
(406)543-0026**

February 3, 2004

Clifford Nelson  
Chairman  
Granite County Commission  
P.O. Box 925  
Philipsburg, MT 59858-0925

Dear Commissioner Nelson:

I write to you on behalf and at the direction of the Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering Committee (Steering Committee) to convey to you the enclosed paper entitled, "Conservancy District, An Option for the Management of Georgetown Lake Dam." In sending it, as the paper states, the Steering Committee recognizes that Georgetown Lake Dam is "...owned by Granite County, and decisions regarding it are the sole prerogative of the County." Also, continuing to quote from the paper's first paragraph, the Steering Committee:

...is not recommending adoption of a conservancy district. Any decision to do so would be Granite County's as the Dam's owner together with the people who benefit from the Dam's operation. The Steering Committee seeks only to focus attention on this alternative because it appears to offer advantages including improvement of the Dam's long-term operation, assumption of Granite County's funding liability for the Dam, and protection of the Dam's water right. These advantages would have to be weighed against the challenges of forming such a district which are set out in Montana law.

We very much appreciate your attendance at the Steering Committee's December 3, 2004 meeting and your helpful comments on an early draft of this paper which we have attempted to incorporate to improve its accuracy.

In closing, please allow me again to emphasize that the Steering Committee wrote the paper to provide information about an option that might some day prove useful and not to recommend any action regarding Granite County's ownership or management of the Georgetown Lake Dam.

The Steering Committee would be pleased to discuss the paper with you and your fellow commissioners should you so desire.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gerald Mueller  
Steering Committee Facilitator